

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AGR-20 EB-11 SP-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 AID-20 /110 W

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R 062000Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5692

INFO DEA HDQS WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 3153

DEA HQS WASH PASS DEA MRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, PINT, US, JM

SUBJ: OPERATION BUCCANEER; MATALON STATEMENT

1. RESPONDING TO PUBLIC CRITICISM TRIGGERED BY JACK ANDERSON COLUMN ALLEGING USE OF "VIETNAME STYLE" DEFOLIANT TO SPRAY MARIJUANAFIELDS, MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND NATIONAL SECURITY MATALON YESTERDAY ISSUED STATEMENT OF DENIAL WHICH INCORPORATED MOST OF THE RELEASE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON USG ASSISTANCE TO ANTI-DRUG EFFORT. MATALON EMPHASIZED DRIVE AGAINST DRUGS WAS JAMAICAN SHOW AND US HELP PROVIDED AT GOJ REQUEST. COMMENTING ON THE OPERATION, MATALON SAID QUOTE THE ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION WHICH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN TO THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT ONLY WELCOME, BUT THE RESULTS OF THE JOINT TASK FORCE OPERATIONS TO DATE HAVE PROVEN BENEFICIAL TO BOTH COUNTRIES. UNQUOTE.

2. SPECIFICALLY ON THE DEFOLIANT SPRAYING ALLEGATION, MATALON ASSERTED QUOTE IT IS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT ERADICATION PROGRAMMES IN THE PAST HAVE INCLUDED MANUAL DESTRUCTION OF GANJA FIELDS AND THEIR CROPS. IT IS ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WELL KNOWN THAT IN OTHER COUNTRIES AERIAL SPRAYING WITH HERBICIDES, COMMONLY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

IN JAMAICA, HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED EFFECTIVELY IN THE CONTROL OF MARIJUANA.

QUOTE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE HERBICIDES HAS BEEN TESTED ON LOCAL PLANTS BUT NO AERIAL SPRAYING HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT, NEITHER HAS THE GOVERNMENT GRANTED ANY PERMISSION TO SPRAY JAMAICAN MARIJUANA FIELDS WITH VIETNAM-STYLE DEFOLIANTS. IT SHOULD ALSO BE EMPHASIZED THAT ALL PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT OPERATING IN THIS JOINT PROGRAMME ARE UNDER THE COMMAND OF JAMAICAN AUTHORITIES AND ALL DECISIONS ON METHODS OF ERADICATION ARE DEPENDENT ON THEIR JUDGMENT.

QUOTE THE MINISTER THEREFORE WISHES TO DISPEL ANY IDEA THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CREATED BY THIS ARTICLE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA PROPOSES TO DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO LEGITIMATE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OR COULD RESULT IN THE CONTAMINATION OF OUR WATER SUPPLIES, BOTH OF WHICH ARE VITAL TO OUR NATIONAL INTEREST. UNQUOTE.
GERARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KINGST03153
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740249-0553
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740969/aaaacgnw.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPERATION BUCCANEER; MATALON STATEMENT
TAGS: SNAR, PINT, US, JM, DEA, (MATALON), (ANDERSON, JACK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005